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# BULLETIN

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OF  
**THE PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM**  
MEMORIAL HALL, FAIRMOUNT PARK

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January, 1903

PHILADELPHIA

No. 1

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## **Bulletin of the Museum**

For the purpose of bringing the members of the corporation into closer touch with the work which is being done at the Museum, the publication of a BULLETIN has been authorized by the Museum Committee, in which the news of the Museum will be given from time to time; announcements will be made of new accessions and gifts; pressing needs will be set forth, and mention made of collections and objects which have been offered for sale and for the purchase of which it is desirable that funds should be raised. Some of the rarities in the collections will also be described and illustrated, and brief articles on interesting art subjects germane to the purposes of the Museum will be published.

The BULLETIN will be sent to the members of the corporation free of charge.

## **Increasing Interest in the Museum**

Until recently it might be said that Philadelphians, as a rule, knew less about the Pennsylvania Museum than strangers from a distance, and many only visited it when duty led them to accompany out-of-town friends on their rounds of sight-seeing. Almost every day we hear the remark: "This is the first time I have been in Memorial Hall since the Centennial; I had no idea that there were such valuable and interesting collections of art objects in the city." And yet there are thousands of people from every section in the Union who make it a point to visit this Museum every time they come to Philadelphia. With every convention held in this city hundreds of delegates and their friends come to Fairmount

Park to inspect and study the art treasures which are housed in Memorial Hall. During the encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in the autumn of 1899, 94,452 people viewed the exhibits in a single month.

Since the building has been repaired and improved, however, through the liberality of City Councils, and the collections have been rearranged largely in new cases, the attendance has greatly increased. The total number of visitors during the year just passed has been greater than for any corresponding period in the history of the institution, 457,617 people having been registered. On several Sunday afternoons the attendance ranged from 12,000 to 17,000. This remarkable record is surpassed by only one other art museum in the United States.

The Pennsylvania Museum stands third in point of age and extent among all the art museums of this country. The size and importance of some of its collections have given it an international reputation. The collection of American pottery and porcelain is the only one of its kind of any consequence in existence, and this alone would entitle the Museum to a place among the foremost institutions of the kind. The Bloomfield Moore collection of paintings, porcelains, enamels, metal work, furniture and carvings; the Frishmuth collection of Colonial relics; the Lamborn collection of Mexican paintings and objects of antiquity; the general collections of textiles, ceramics and carvings,—all contain many treasures of art which will not be found in other museums.

Philadelphians are justified in taking a civic pride in an institution which is exerting such a refining and educating influence in the community, and they should be willing to lend it their loyal and substantial support.